



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORT ARTHUR MEN SENTENCED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that two Port Arthur men have been sentenced to federal prison for separate federal firearms violations in the District of Texas. The sentences were handed down today by United States District Judge Ron Clark.

"Port Arthur is a safer place today because these armed felons are off the streets," Orwig stated.

THOMAS LEE LEWIS, 55, received 37 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to information presented in court, on April 20, 2005, a search for narcotics was conducted at Lewis' residence which revealed a firearm. Since Lewis has prior felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance in Jefferson County in 1993 and 1995, he is prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm or ammunition at any time.

ANTHONY BENJAMIN, 25, was sentenced to 87 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to information presented in court, on March 12, 2006, Port Arthur police were dispatched to a residence in reference to a disturbance in which the defendant was armed

with a firearm. Benjamin has a prior felony conviction for aggravated assault in Jefferson County in 2002 and is prohibited from possessing or owning a firearm or ammunition at any time.

These cases were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Port Arthur Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James O. Jenkins, Jr.

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